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Reply to the Office Action dated June 16, 2003
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10-16, 18, and 20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1 and 11.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 10-14, 16, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Yasuda et al. (JP 4-367569). Claims 5 and 15 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art in view of Yasuda et al. and further in view of Shirahata et al. (U.S. 6,005,468). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10-16, 18, and 20.

In view of the following amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10-16, 18, and 20 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

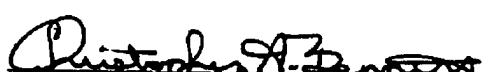
To the extent necessary, Applicants petition the Commissioner for a ONE-month extension of time, extending to October 16, 2003, the period for response to the Office Action dated June 16, 2003.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 15, 2003


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